

MEMORANDUM

To: Patrick J. Schloss, President

From: Peggy L. Moch, Faculty Senate Executive Secretary

Date: May 19, 2011

Subject: 2010-2011 Annual Report of the Faculty Senate

The Faculty Senate convened seven times during the 2010-2011 academic year. Each Senate meeting began with opening remarks by President Schloss keeping Senators updated on campus issues and projects. During 2010-2011, President Schloss focused his remarks on budget developments as well as the success of VSU's Planning & Budget Council which approved funds to hire more faculty to maintain VSU's current student-faculty ratio as well as to fund budget pools that advance the university (e.g., major scientific equipment pool).

The President emphasized the on-going three-year process of converting temporary non-terminally degreed faculty to terminally degreed faculty that began in 2009-2010. The need for large class sections was discussed and as well as the benefits of large class sections. The Senate was kept informed on developments in the search for a new Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs that began when Dr. Levy announced his retirement in fall of 2009. Dr. Philip Gunter was named to that position. Following the approval of the new dining service bid, Chartwells funded a new scholarship program.

After his remarks, the meeting was turned over to the Executive Secretary. During each meeting, the statutory committees updated the Senate on their activities since the previous meeting. At each meeting, the minutes of the previous Senate meeting and the minutes of the Academic Committee were presented and approved, with no more than minor corrections. In addition, several major issues were considered. The following presents a brief summary of the major activities during 2010-2011. (For more detail, please see the official minutes of each Senate meeting, <http://www.valdosta.edu/facsen/meeting/minutes/index.shtml>)

Major Issues

1. During 2010-2011, the Senate participated in a significant expansion of shared governance at VSU. A university wide tenure and promotion document (UTP) was thoughtfully and with great input from all interested and affected parties was unanimously passed by the faculty senate with minor, but substantive, changes made as friendly amendments at the April 21, 2011 meeting of the VSU Faculty Senate.
2. During fall 2010, the Senate Executive Secretary gathered materials for a Senate web page that contains the most recent by-laws for all Senate committees.
<http://www.valdosta.edu/facsen/meeting/CommitteeBylaws.shtml>
3. At the September 16, 2010 meeting, the Senate was informed about the need for a new VSU Strategic Plan for 2011-12 through 2015-16. A wide range of administrators, faculty, staff, students, community, and Senate members participated in various levels of the development of the VSU Strategic Plan with the final draft being presented to the Faculty Senate at the May 19, 2011 meeting where it was approved with some friendly amendments.

4. At the November 18, 2010 meeting, the Senate Institutional Planning Committee was asked to look into revising the VSU Academic Leave Policy in lieu of the Faculty Affairs Committee since they were engaged in working on the UTP. At the February 17, 2011 meeting, the Faculty Senate rejected a proposed revision to the VSU Academic Leave Policy and remanded it back to committee. Later at the April 21, 2011 meeting, the Senate approved a new revised version VSU Leave of Absence Policy by unanimous vote.
5. At the February 17, 2011 meeting, the Senate unanimously approved the creation of the Honors College in place of the Honors Program.
6. University System of Georgia Faculty Council (USGFC) bylaws were submitted to and approved by the VSU Senate on February 17, 2011 and revisions on April 21, 2011.

Major Issues that will carry over into the 2010-2011 academic year

1. At its November 19, 2009 meeting, the Senate remanded to the Faculty Affairs Committee a Possible Revision to the Faculty Evaluation Model's Appendix C <http://www.valdosta.edu/academic/documents/FEMfinal.pdf> by renaming the Annual Faculty Activity Report and Action Plan (AFARAP) Section B. PROFESSIONALGROWTH AND PRODUCTIVITY to include the word "scholarship" because currently the word appears only once in Section B of the AFARAP.
2. At its April 15, 2010 meeting, the Senate extensively discussed a proposed policy from the Faculty Affairs Committee on guidelines for promotion from Lecturer to Senior Lecturer for insertion in the VSU Faculty Handbook. A motion was passed to send the proposed policy back to the Faculty Affairs Committee to work with the President and the Provost to further clarify issues relating to Instructors, Lecturers, and the proposed policy on Senior Lecturers.
3. At its September 16, 2011 meeting, the Senate remanded to the Faculty Affairs Committee a proposal to update and improve the current VSU Faculty Handbook working with Honey Coppage.
4. At the May 19, 2011 meeting, the Senate discussed the creation of a Special Task Force to be led by Dr. Peggy L. Moch and Dr. Tracy Woodard-Myers to look into recent incidences regarding faculty members having difficulties with students in their classrooms. The task force will examine current policies and procedures, see what other similar institutions' policies and procedures might have in place, and will report back to the senate their findings and recommendations.